

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1), cancelling claims and putting remaining claims in form for allowance, as set forth in the Office Action of 12/1/2011.

Claims 53-64, 82-97, and 106-108 are under examination in the present application. In the Office Action mailed December 1, 2011, the Examiner made has made the following rejections:

- I.** Claims 53, 56-64, 82, 83, 85-95, and 106-108 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. (June 11, 1996), Thompson et al. (1988), and Zhang et al. (1992).
- II.** Claims 53, 56-64, 72-75, 77-95, and 106-108 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 5, and 10-40 of copending Application No. 11/489,665.

The Examiner notes that Claims 54, 55, 96 and 97 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the rejected base claims and any intervening claims. (Office Action of 12/1/2012, page 9.) Accordingly, Applicants herein make the following amendments in order to put the claims in condition for allowance:

Claims 65-89 and 98-105 are cancelled.

Independent Claim 53 is amended to contain all of the limitations of allowable Claim 54, and Claim 54 is cancelled. Claim 55 is amended to depend from Claim 53 instead of Claim 54.

Independent Claim 90 is herein amended to contain all of the limitations of Claims 95 and allowable claim 96, and Claims 95 and 96 are cancelled. Claim 97 is amended to depend from Claim 90 instead of Claim 96.

All remaining claims depend from either Claim 53 or Claim 90, directly or indirectly, and thereby contain all of the features of these base claims. All amendments are made for business reasons and without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and reserving the right to prosecute the original or similar claims in one or more future applications.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 662-1277.

Dated: March 1, 2012

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